Belgian technology for producing fresh grass

1055. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of a Belgian Technology (Agromat) which produces a tonne of fresh grass every day using a soil-less germination method;

(b) what are the project under implementation to increase green fodder availability during summer months and whether any overseas technology on green fodder production is under evaluation by Government; and

(c) whether Belgium has also offerred a grain-storage technology for use by the Food Corporation of India, which is claimed to eliminate storage losses to a considerable extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) To increase overall green fodder availability including during the summer months, two major schemes, namely, All India Coordinated Research Project on Forage Crops and centrally sponsored scheme on Food and Fodder development including Seed Production, are tinder implementation However, no overseas technology on this aspect is under evaluation.

(b) The Belgian technology for gain storage has been evaluated and not found suitable under Indian conditions.

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Functioning of fish fanners development agencies in the country

1056. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the number of Fish Farmers Development Agencies established so far in the country and number of them district wise in Orissa and number of them functional SO far;

(b) the activities undertaken by d Fish Farmers Development Agencies an achievements made thereunder so fa and

(c) to what extent women from Fishermen communities are being invol ed in this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONA ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINI TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTR OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISI NA KUMAR); (a) 397 Fish Farmer Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned so far. Out of these 17 FFDAs have been sanctioned for the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Gai jam, Phulbani, Bolangjr., Sambalpu. Dhenkanal. Mayurbbanj, Kalahand Poraput, Snndergarh, Keonjhar. Gajapat Rayagada, Nawarangpur and Malkan; giri and Orissa and all of them are orx rational.

(b) The FFDAs select suitable watt area, arrange lease on long-term bas: to identified beneficiaries, provide incer tives for construction of new ponds, re novation of ponds and lakes, runnin water fish culture, inputs, establishmeri of hatcheries, aeratiors besides trianin the fish farmers and giving them exter sion support. So far these agencie have brought about 3.60 lakh ha. c water area under fish culture and trail ed about 4 lakh fish farmers in improves methods of fish farming throughout th country. The national average pr e ductivity of the fish farms under thes. agencies is about 2075 kg./ha./year.

(c) As per available information ab out 42 per cent of the family member of beneficiaries under the FFDA prog ramme are women and they are actively involved in fresh water aquaculture.

Seed Research Centres in the Centres;

1057. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE he pleased to state:

(a) the number of seed research centres working in the Country;

(b) the names of the places where these centres have been set up;